

UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

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Tuesday, March 4, 2025

Temporary Evacuation of 200 Building



Temporary evacuation of 200 Medical Building today around 9:45 AM. Reentry allowed around 10 AM. No announcement of the cause.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 10:22 AM No comments:

Labels: health care, UCLA

PhD Plans (Between the Lines)



The systemwide Academic Senate's website features a report on UC's doctoral education. As yours truly reads it, he sees the following implicit and explicit messaging:

PhD enrollments should not be based on the needs of departments for TAs, but rather on academic and nonacademic job prospects for graduates.

There needs to be sufficient support available for PhD programs to support students through programs apart from TAing. (So, if there isn't, presumably the programs should be downsized until enrollment matches such support.)

Time limits to degree should be enforced (which will help matching enrollments to limited resources).

Weak programs must be remedied by the university if departments can't do it.

This summary is more blunt than the wording of the report. You can read the report for yourself and make your own interpretation at:

https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/reports/future-of-doctoral-programs-report-2025.pdf.

One suspects that the student-worker strike and the resulting rising cost of grad student workers is in some way background to this report.

The Council of UC Faculty Associations

- We Support AB-672, A First Step Towards Protecting PERB's Authority
- Emergency Day of Action March 19, Noon
- Council of UC Faculty Associations Resolution Against ICE Raids and Deportations
- Faculty Association Town Hall on Funding Cuts – March 13 at 6pm
- Once Again, It's Time for California to Lead

Remaking the University

- Where There are No Universities (Guest Post) - 3/31/2025
- Finding "Dear Colleagues" within the Autocratic Academy (Guest Post) - 3/28/2025
- Liner Note 20: After Columbia's Betrayal - 3/22/2025

Higher Ed. News & Commentary

- Chronicle of Higher Education
- Inside Higher Education
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- UC-AFT

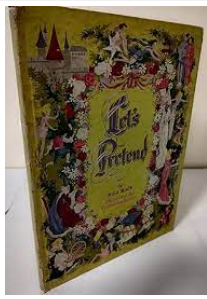
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Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:35 AM No comments:    

Labels: strikes, UC

Pretending



From the [LA Times](#):

...The University of California, following several cases of questioned Native American identity over the last few years, has launched a “fact-finding mission” on the issue, according to UC Academic Senate Chair Steven W. Cheung. UC provided no details on the scope of the effort. But the action comes after UC Native American scholars held their first symposium last year on what they say is a growing problem of what are called “Pretendians” — pretend Indians — in the UC system and across academia nationwide...

Full story at <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-03-01/uc-native-americans-take-on-scholars-claiming-indigenous-roots-without-proof>.

We noted in a post back in 2023 that one regent has been questioned on this very issue. So it is a bit delicate:

<https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2023/10/another-pretendian-this-one-on-regents.html>.

And as we also noted back in 2023, there are Prop 209 considerations to weigh before any action could be taken against faculty:

<https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2023/09/be-careful-about-pushing-faculty-out.html>.

In particular, UC takes the position now in the face of the various Trump directives that is already in compliance due to Prop 209.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:    

Labels: diversity, UC

Monday, March 3, 2025

Told you so

When we have reviewed the state budget allocation to UC in the past, we noted that the idea of a multiyear “compact” with the governor is fine in the abstract. But in practice, it is the legislature that enacts state budgets. And there is no way to write a contract that compels a future legislature to do anything, let alone comply with a compact which legislators played no part in negotiating.



The current proposal by the governor for the 2025-26 budget involves a cut for UC, termed a deferral, but a promise to make it up in future budgets keeping the compact intact (kind of). But here comes the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) in a publication on UC dated Feb. 27: [excerpt]

Recommend Removing Deferrals to Signal More Realistic Budget Expectations. *Last year, the state provided a clear signal to UC that it was to begin planning for a base General Fund reduction in 2025-26. This approach gave UC time to plan and make the associated adjustments within its budget. Given the state's projected deficit in 2026-27, the state likely will not have budget capacity to support substantial increases in General Fund spending for any programs, including UC. Rather than continuing with the deferral plans and committing to out-year funding increases, we recommending sending a more realistic signal to UC that it may not receive an increase in its state General Fund support in 2026-27. Signaling this expectation is more helpful to UC than setting an explicit expectation it will receive substantial additional state support in 2026-27, without any specific plan to ensure that funding is forthcoming. It also avoids having the state create new fiscal obligations it cannot currently afford. If the state's fiscal condition improves over the next year, the Legislature could consider providing additional General Fund support for UC at that time.*

Source: <https://lao.ca.gov/Publications/Report/4998>.

In short, promises from the governor ARE worth the paper they are printed on, but no more than that.

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Contributors

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Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:35 AM](#) No comments:    

Labels: [LAO](#), [State Budget](#), [UC budget crisis](#)

Revamped Broxton Plaza

From the [UCLA Newsroom](#): On Saturday, Feb. 22, hundreds of Bruins, local business owners, policymakers, and residents and their families gathered for a street party and ribbon-cutting ceremony trumpeting the opening of Broxton Plaza, the 14,000-square-foot, car-free commercial stretch in the heart of the neighborhood that features al fresco dining, live music, movies, street markets and other events.



During an afternoon of speeches and performances by the UCLA Marching Band and Spirit Squad, guests posed for selfies with Joe and Josie Bruin and sampled fare and wares from Broxton Plaza restaurants and shops while children played games, roller-skated, painted pottery and zipped up and down the street on scooters...

"Community building is more important than ever after the fires," said [LA City councilmember Katy] Yaroslavsky, whose city council district includes Westwood. She called Broxton Plaza "a tangible hint of what's to come" for the neighborhood as Westwood and UCLA prepare to welcome the Metro Purple line extension and the 2028 Olympic Village...

Full news release at <https://newsroom.ucla.edu/stories/ucla-brings-bruin-spirit-to-opening-of-westwood-broxton-plaza>.

Note: This still leaves Westwood Blvd. with its vacancies. And, at the northern end of Broxton Plaza, the fate of one of the two movie theaters is uncertain.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments:    

Labels: [UCLA](#)

Sunday, March 2, 2025

No Sugarcoating

From [EdSource](#):

UCLA could be at risk of losing more than \$1 billion if the Trump administration follows through on threats to withhold funding from colleges that continue any race-based programs, the university's chief financial officer said Thursday. The campus receives about \$900 million in direct federal funding for "a range of contracts and grants" and another \$200 million for overhead, said Stephen Agostini, UCLA's chief financial officer, during a virtual town hall Thursday. UCLA held the town hall to discuss federal policy actions and their impacts on the campus... "There's really no way to sugarcoat it," he said...



Full story at <https://edsources.org/updates/ucla-says-more-than-1-billion-at-risk-if-feds-withhold-funding>.

As blog readers will know, various figures were thrown around at the town hall and at other times without precise identification of what they applied to. But it's a lot of money, whatever it is.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:35 AM](#) No comments:    

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New Real Estate Development Degree

From the [LA Business Journal](#):

University of California, Los Angeles is launching a Master of Real Estate Development program, or MRED, in partnership with the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs in an effort to produce more thoughtful and community-driven real estate leaders, according to a release... UCLA is the second UC school to offer a Master of Real Estate program, behind UC Berkeley, which established its program in 2018...

The curriculum will dive into themes that challenge students to think critically, including topics such as climate change's impact on real estate to issues like rising inequality, gentrification and displacement, what will happen with post-pandemic work, and international trade concerns, among others. Most courses will be taught by industry professionals.



Full story at <https://labusinessjournal.com/real-estate/ucla-launches-mred-program/>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments:      

Labels: [UC-Berkeley](#), [UCLA](#)

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